

PHLOJOTRYA VAUDOUERI MULS. (COL.: MELANDRYIDAE) IN S. E. LONDON. — I was surprised to find an incomplete elytron of this generally scarce woodboring beetle on the ground near a white willow in Maryon Wilson Park, Charlton, one day last autumn. Its identity, suspected at the time, was verified beyond doubt from my collection. The presumption, however the beetle had originally come from the afore-said willow is greatly open to question; the tree is not dead, has all its bark and shows no bore-holes in the trunk, but some upper branch could be, or have been, infested. Or it may have come from some other tree, or even have been carried by a bird from a distance. The nearest previous record appears to be for Dulwich, also in S. E. London (Fowler, 1891, *Col. Brit. Isl.* 5: 45). — A. A. ALLEN.

RASPBERRY AS A NATURAL PABULUM OF THE HOLLY BLUE. — The note by Dr. J. V. Banner in the Nov./Dec. 1979 issue of the Record reminded me of a similar experience I had when I lived in Stowmarket in the 1950's. I found a number of larvae feeding on raspberries in my garden, which subsequently emerged as *Celastrina argiolus*. The perfect insects were rather smaller than usual, but otherwise quite normal. — H. E. CHIPPERFIELD, The Shielling, Walberswick, Southwold, Suffolk.

THE WHITE-LETTER HAIRSTREAK: STRYMONIDIA W-ALBUM KNOCH. — Mr. A. A. Allen (*Ent. Rec.*, 92: 6) finds it difficult to account for the occurrence of a single *Strymonidia w-album* in a garden at Carshalton Beeches, Surrey in 1978, citing the nearest colonies on record, from which it could have strayed, as being at Box Hill and Bookham Common. I cannot speak from experience of the former locality, but de Worms, in the 1959 supplement to his *Butterflies of London and its Surroundings* (1950), records only two casual sightings of the species on Bookham Common. I can record, however, that a strong colony existed there up to and including 1975, when the parent elm was observed to be dying. None were seen in 1976 or 1979. A similarly strong colony on Ashted Common, nearer to Carshalton than either Box Hill or Bookham Common, and not recorded by de Worms, expired at the same time.

Mr. Allen's 1978 sighting is particularly interesting in the light of the Forestry Commission's report on elm disease for 1976, which states that 94% of Surrey's elms and 81% of those in the GLC area had succumbed by that year. Clearly, the two localities discussed above could not be the source of a stray insect in 1978 and it would therefore be interesting to read more in these pages of the present status (and prospects) of this species in Surrey and the South in general. — P. J. HOLDAWAY, 81 Melody Road, Biggin Hill, Westerham, Kent TN16 3PJ. [L. K. and K. G. W. Evans, *Survey of the Macrolepidoptera of Croydon and North-East Surrey*, cite a number of localities for *w-album* in the area, the nearest of which is Nonesuch Park, some 3 miles from Carshalton Beeches. — J. M. C.-H.]